EDWARD R. MURROW High School *ANTHONY R. LODICO: PRINCIPAL*

THE MURROW MUSIC INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER
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Editors: T. Toriello and C. Christensen

The Winter Concerts as only Murrow does!

The Winter Concerts and recitals spanned practically the entire Winter season! There were no less than seven nights of music starting in December and ending in March.

The ***Holiday Concert*** on December 18, 2008, featured the Gospel Chorus directed by **Ms. Johnson** singing excerpts from the Messiah as well as solo and small group performances by the vocal majors.

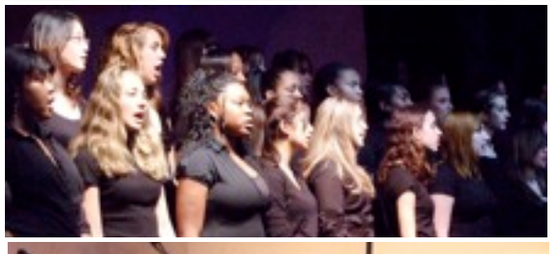
Vocalfest on January 9, 2009, coordinated by **Ms. Johnson**, was a mix of popular and classical songs many of which will be evaluated at the NYSSMA festival in May.

The ***Digital Music Concert*** (MIDI concert) on January 22, 2009, coordinated by **Mr. Shapiro**, was a venue for students of the Digital Music Program. It featured compositions, arrangements, performances and multi-media presentations prepared by the students in the MIDI lab.

The ***Chamber Music Recital*** on January 23, 2009, coordinated by **Ms. Christensen**, featured students from the NYSSMA club and the Advanced Piano Class playing music by Mozart, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Gershwin and Miles Davis.

Guitarfest (plugged) on March 3, 2009, coordinated by **Mr. Demarco** and **Mr. Toriello**, featured Murow students in over twenty rock bands.

The ***Winter Concert,*** January 15th and 16th, was two nights of extraordinary music performed by the music department's nine different ensembles.



Concert Band, Women's Chorus, Symphonic Orchestra feature Freshman performing their first concert at Murrow

Here are some highlights from the many noteworthy performances: The Orchestra directed by **Mr. Joe Demarco** and featured violinist, **Sara Sunshine**, performed "Concerto No. 1 for Violin and Orchestra" by J. S. Bach; The Orchestra, directed by **Mr. Don Christensen**, performed Beethoven's "Symphony No.5, first movement;" The Women's Chorus, directed by **Mr. Paul Postel** and featured vocalists, **Molly Goldberg**, **Jennifer Brito**, and **Lana Guardo**, performed Gabriel Faure's "Tantum Ergo;" The Mixed Chorus, directed by **Mr. Alan Shapiro** and accompanied by a "pick-up" orchestra of students, performed Vivaldi's "Gloria;" The Jazz Band, directed by **Tom Toriello** and featured clarinetist **Chuk Udokwu** recreated Artie Shaw's arrangement of Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine;" The Concert Band, directed by **Ms. Cindy Christensen** and featured flutist, **Sara Nodell**, performed James Barnes "Westridge Overture;" The Madrigal Choir, directed by Mr. **Paul Postel**, performed Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" in its entirety with a guest harp accompanist from The Juilliard School, Ms. Katie Andrews; The Symphonic Band, directed by **Mr. Paul Postel** performed an arrangement of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville;" and the Gospel Chorus, directed by **Ms. Cheryl Johnson**, performed "Bless the Lord" - featured soloists, **Nefertiti Edwards**, **Christopher Scott**, "Glorify Your Name" - featured soloist, **Andurina Panezo**, **Nyilah Cardoza**, and "For Every Mountain" – featured soloists, **Antoinique Bedward**, **Ashley Clarke**.

Caroline Kennedy Visits Murrow, an Exemplar of the Arts in Education

Carolyn Kennedy *and Principal* ***Anthony Lodico***

Last year, **Tom Toriello** and **Spy Kontarinis** (AP, Fine Arts) completed an Arts survey for the Office of the Arts and Special Projects. It described the Arts programs Murrow offered including screened programs for fine arts, music and theatre. The survey caught the eye of **Ms. Kennedy**, who has been an advocate for the arts in public schools. A visit was arranged for Thursday, February 12, 2009. Along with Ms. Kennedy were a number of administrators from the Office of the Arts and Special Projects, including **Mr. Paul King**, Executive Director, **Ms. Maria Palma**, Director of Arts Education Accountability & Support and **Ms. Barbara Murray**, Director of Music. The group was treated to a fine performance of the Madrigal Choir, directed by **Mr. Paul Postel**. Then they broke up into small teams to observe arts classes throughout the building. The group reconvened in the Principal's conference room for a discussion about how Principals throughout the city can be encouraged and assisted in starting Arts programs in their schools. Mr. Paul King expressed his appreciation to **Mr. Lodico**, the administrators, teachers and students for the visit. "It was wonderful for Caroline Kennedy to see such a profoundly rich arts school with dedicated, passionate and articulate arts teachers and supervisors. She was suitably impressed and I am immensely grateful."

The Madrigal Choir performs for Carolyn Kennedy

We got a Baldwin Baby Grand!

***Tom Toriello** enjoys playing the baby grand at a MMS meeting*

This is amazing. The Murrow Music Sponsors have been hard at work raising funds to replace the pianos in the music department. At one of the MMS meetings earlier this year, Mr. **Peter Weitzner** (**Maya Weitzner**'s father) calmly announced that we would soon be getting a piano donated for the choral room. Wow! The story goes - he contacted VH-1 Save the Music Foundation and asked for a piano for the school. They put him on a list and said they would let him know. Next thing you know, there is a Baldwin piano in a warehouse in the Bronx being refurbished – new strings, new pin block, etc. And on Monday, March 9, 2009, it was my pleasure to play the instrument for the parents of the Murrow Music Sponsors in the Choral Room. Many thanks to **Laurie Lock** and **Chiho Okuizumi** of VH1, Save the Music, for their role in making this happen and of course, to Peter Weitzner. He is an example of how the parents of MMS care enough to get involved and improve the day-to-day instruction for the students and faculty of the music department. On behalf of the students and teachers, - present and future -Thank you!

-Tom Toriello-

Steinway and Sons Piano Factory Review

Piano Students at the Steinway Factory

On Wednesday, March 4, 2009, my piano class and I took a trip to visit the Steinway and Sons piano factory in Long Island City, Queens. The tour started with a history of the Steinway family. They moved here from Germany, and opened up a factory right here in New York City. During the two-hour tour, we got to see how the pianos were made, right from when the wood comes into the building. Throughout the tour, we saw things nobody else can see. This included how the workers carve the keys and legs. We got to see the machines which cut the wood. We saw the pianos being primed, custom decorated, and tuned. Before a piano is shipped out, it has to go through some final stages. It has to be tuned and played a few times, looked over for scratches, and looked over again. At Steinway, they take their time and make sure that every piano is perfect.

-Liam Merli-

Another First! College music programs are represented at Murrow's College Fair

On Thursday, March 19, 2009 Murrow had its College Fair in the students' cafeteria. For the first time, representatives from college music programs accepted an invitation to set up their displays and speak to Murrow students about their programs. The parents of the MMS, in particular, **Ms. Zwerling**, initiated the move to specifically invite music programs to the College Fair. There were reps from Ithaca College (Murrow alum, **David Cruz**,) the Brooklyn College Conservatory (**Dr. Emily Moss**) The Aaron Copeland School of Music at Queens College (**Ms. Chu**) and Five Towns College (**Mr. Sal Somma** – former AP of music at Murrow). Another tradition of excellence and service for the music students of Murrow has begun.

Murrow Music Sponsors Donates over $4,000 to the Music Department!

Due to the fabulous fund raising efforts of our wonderful parents, and the support of all our students' families & friends, the Murrow Music Sponsors was able to donate over $4,000 towards the purchase of much-needed instruments and the purchase of a new sound system for our music classrooms. Guitars, flutes, violins & a clarinet have already been delivered and are being used by our students.

We have also donated $500 towards the Annapolis, Maryland competition in April. These donations are all in addition to the usual $1,600 in scholarships that are awarded to selected graduating seniors. The grand piano fund has grown to approximately $4,600.

We would like to thank all of our parent volunteers for their continuing support and assistance. It is only because of this concentrated, joint effort that we have been able to accomplish so much this year. Please join us at our monthly meetings and keep up with what's happening in the Music Department. Questions, comments or concerns may be addressed to mms@keynotes1.com.

-Cecelia Nodell-

Murrow Students Past and Present Shine at Avery Fisher Hall

On March 10th both **Pascal Licciardi** (graduating class of '95) and **Eustice Herbert** (sophomore) performed at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center. Pascal Licciardi and the Brooklyn Studio Secondary School Concert Band, were invited to perform in an invitational concert sponsored by Perform America. This concert marked the fourteenth annual Tri-state Invitational High School Young Performers Festival Showcase Concert. Days prior to the performance, Licciardi's principal tuba player bruised his playing hand, sidelining him for the concert. Faced with this impasse, Licciardi returned to his roots contacting **Mr. Toriello**. **Eustice Herbert** was available and stepped right in spectacularly. It need not be said that the concert was a success and yet again E.R. Murrow shined.

Pascal Licciardi**,Band Director, and **Eustice Herbert

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Mon.,April 20	Music Sponsors Meeting (MMS): 7PM
Wed.,May 6-Sat., May 9	Spring Production: Fiddler on the Roof
Sat., May 9	NYSSMA Festival in Brooklyn
Mon.,May 11	MMS Meeting: 7PM
Thurs., May 21	Open School Aft. 12:30-2:45
Tue., May 26, Wed., May 27	Run-thru Rehearsal Spring Concert-3PM
Fri., May 29	Spring Concert: 7PM
Fri., June 5	Guitarfest: 7PM
Sat., June 6	NYSSMA Festival in Manhatten
Mon., June 8	Digital Concert: 7PM
Tue. June 9	Vocalfest: 7PM
June 12	Ensemble Recital: 7PM
June 15	MMS Meeting: 7PM
June 22	Music Regents Exam
June 16-24	Regents
June 23	Graduation
June 26	Last Day of Classes

Comments, Contributions, Questions, Concerns?

Please send to:
ttoriel@schools.nyc.gov.

The Music Institute Faculty

Tom Toriello, A. P.
Cindy Christensen, Don Christensen,
Joe DeMarco, Amanda Elkan,
Cheryl Johnson, Vincent Ponzi,
Paul Postel, Alan Shapiro